

CM/ECF Project Update

June, 2002

On May 23 in Portland and May 24 in Bangor, the U.S. Trustee, case trustees and their staffs came to the courtroom for a presentation on and demonstration of ECF. They were impressed with the functionality and felt much more comfortable with the ease of use and ability to interface with their office practices. Training for this group will be held in July, and they will be the first to go live on the system in August. Training for the pilot attorney-filer group will be scheduled in August, with a go-live date immediately following. There will then be a break of about a month to allow Clerk's Office staff to ease in to their new duties of assisting filing attorneys with electronically filed transactions.

Our committees are busy reviewing standing orders and administrative practices from other ECF districts so we can have our own standing order and user manuals in place to meet the above schedule. Version 2 of the software has been delayed at the national level, and we have decided to go ahead with our implementation of ECF as planned, rather than waiting until it is available. When it is introduced later this year, it should be transparent to ECF filers, so you won't have to worry about retraining.

Until electronic filing becomes available for everyone, you can still use your current PACER ID to get information from the data base. If you haven't yet tried the query or reports functionality, you can run through the tutorial on our web site to see what's available. Once you start using it, if you have any questions, we'll do whatever we can to help you get what you need.

A recent decision by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts limits the charge for a single PDF document to 30 pages retrieved from CM/ECF sites. Effective April 1, 2002, the maximum charge for a PDF document obtained from a CM/ECF site is \$2.10. Previously a 50 page document cost \$3.50 at 7 cents a page. This same document now costs only \$2.10. Users will receive the entire 50 page document but only be charged \$2.10. This "cap" applies only to PDF documents accessed from CM/ECF sites. The "cap" does not apply to docket sheets, reports, or documents obtained from sites other than CM/ECF. Each attachment in a case filed in CM/ECF is considered a separate document, therefore, the "cap" will apply to each attachment over 30 pages.

We have taken it upon ourselves to develop an efficient method of converting old images from Web PACER to CM/ECF. We've made significant progress and are currently testing with the Administrative Office, so that other districts will be able to take advantage of our product. We expect to have a conversion date within the next few weeks, and hope that by next month's update we can report a successful conversion.

Once again, we'd like to remind everyone that there is a standing order regarding the proper format for filings, which is available on the local rules page of this web site. These requirements are critical for the scanning of all documents, since the electronic file is now the official file of the court, and following them will help us create quality images. I trust that you will do everything you can to adhere to these standards.